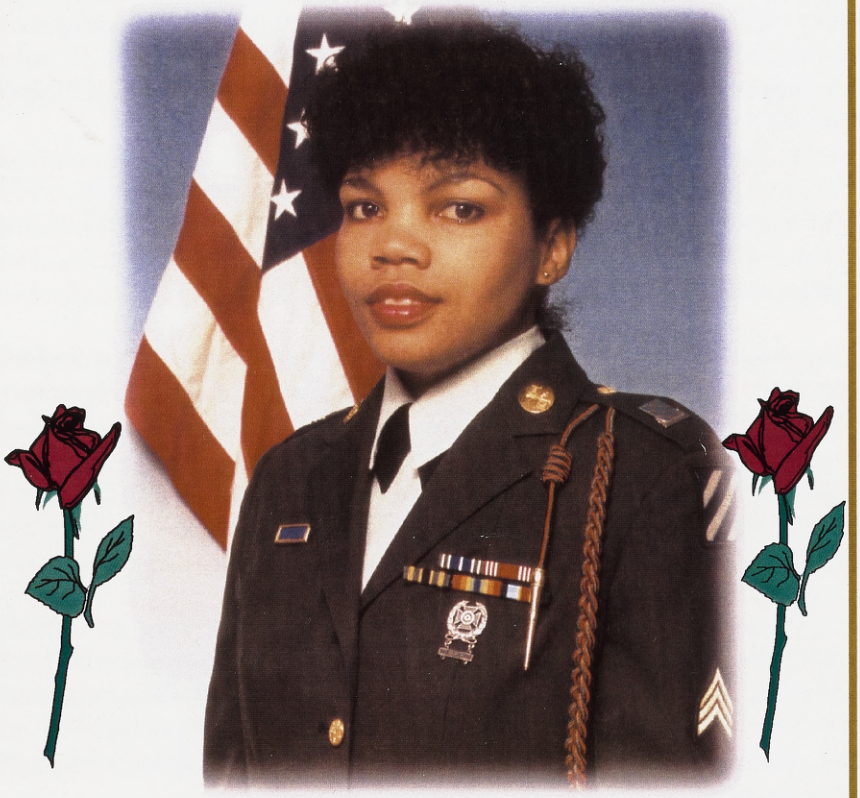
In Loving Memory

of

Staff Sergeant Vanessa D. Franklin



Sunrise
June 6, 1963

Sunset
January 22, 2002

Service Held
Friday, February 1, 2002
11:00 A.M.

St. John Missionary Baptist Church
662 South 52nd Street
Richmond, California 94804

Officiating
Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor

Obituary

Vanessa Denise Miller, the first child born to Earnest J. and Ann Miller on June 6, 1963 in Los Angeles, CA. Vanessa accepted Christ and was baptized on April 4, 1973 at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond, CA by Rev. R.L. Johnson. Vanessa was an active member of the youth choir.

Vanessa graduated from El Cerrito High School on June 16, 1982 and joined the U.S. Army on January 11, 1985. While serving tours of duty in Germany, Kansas, Georgia, Virginia, and Hawaii, Vanessa rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Vanessa's radiant smile and charismatic personality warmed the hearts of everyone she came in contact with. Her adventurous spirit and love of nature, animals, and the outdoors was evident in all aspects of her life. She enjoyed sports, dancing, and especially spending time with family and friends. Vanessa's unyielding care and concern was demonstrated by her tireless efforts on behalf of all.

Her exuberant heart, resilience and commitment to family compelled her to assume the responsibility of her sister's three children. Vanessa's positive and energetic personality enhanced her marriage to her best friend and soul mate of 20 years, Michael Franklin on August 4, 2001. To this union, a blended family was formed.

Her father, Earnest J. Miller, preceded Vanessa in death in November 1999.

Vanessa leaves to cherish her memory: ***Loving husband*** - Michael, ***Three Beloved Children*** - Kairee, Ariel and Ajah, ***Parents*** - Ralston and Ann Lucas, ***Maternal Grandmother*** - Alberta Story, ***Father and Mother-In-Law*** - Eugene and Connie Franklin, ***Sisters and Brothers*** - Shaney Fredzess, DeShante Lucas, Brittnee Lucas, Peter Lucas, Michael Lucas and Marc Lucas, all of California; Phyllis Boxie (Joseph), Larry Miller and Debbie Miller, all of Texas; Sharon Golden and Patrick Robinson of Arkansas; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and many friends.

Order of Service
for
Vanessa Denise Franklin

Friday, February 1, 2002 - 11:00 a.m.

Processional . . . . . .

Solo . . . . . Cynthia Harris

Scriptures . . . . . Reverend Otis Harris
Old Testament: 23rd Psalms
New Testament: John 14:1-3

Selection . . . . . St. John Missionary Baptist Choir

Prayer . . . . . Reverend Melvin Williams

Solo . . . . . Janie Miller

Acknowledgments . . . . . Delores Rollins

Expressions by. . . . . Hazel Wilson
James Cooper
Phyllis Boise

Tribute To My Daughter . . . . . Nadine Gills-Ward

Reflections of Life . . . . . Nadine Gills-Ward

Solo . . . . . Marc V. Smith

US Army Biography . . . . . Lt. Col. Blair Alexander

Words of Comfort . . . . . Dr. Kevin Hall, Pastor

Viewing . . . . . .

Recessional . . . . . .

Interment
Rolling Hills Memorial Park
4100 Hilltop Drive
Richmond, California

I'M FREE

A message from Vanessa

Why am I the center of attention? Is it because Jesus gave me honorable mention?
I will answer that question, for I don't want any grief, though perhaps my time seemed all too brief.

Don't grieve for me now for I'm free.
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call.
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day, to laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I found peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy.
My husband, my mother, who are dear to me,
Or even my children - sweet as can be.

Lift up your hearts and share with me.
God wanted me now, he set me free.
And who's a better judge, God or me?

Lord I thank you for my short walk
It will last for all eternity.

Acknowledgment

The Family of Vanessa Franklin is very grateful to all that have been so generous i... expressing their love, compassion, and support. Your prayers, cards, flowers, well wishes, and thoughtfulness in every way have helped the family through a difficult time. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. We thank God for you! *- The Franklin and Lucas Fam...s*

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